

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

A CASE THAT WILL AFFECT SOME OF EDISON'S PATENTS.

LOSS OF A BIG MINING CLAIM THROUGH NEGLIGENCE—COLIN CAMERON SUSTAINED.

Washington, March 27.—A ruling upon the validity of patents granted in the United States under foreign patents of the same invention, was made by the Supreme Court of the United States to-day in the case of Henry Huber et al. v. the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company, appealed from the Circuit Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. Mr. Justice Blatchford delivered the opinion. A patent for an "improvement in water-closets" was issued April 7, 1874, in Great Britain. The patent was to run for nineteen years, with a proviso that if a stamp duty of £100 was not paid within seven years of date of issue, the patent would at the expiration of that term become void. Application for a patent in the United States under assignment was made November 29, 1881, and the patent granted June 27, 1882. The £100 stamp duty was not paid in Great Britain within the time required, and the patent there became void April 7, 1881. Under these facts the Circuit Court held that the patent granted in the United States was void, because it was granted after the British patent had ceased to exist, and judgment to this effect in favor of the defendants was affirmed.

This decision, it is said, at the Patent Office, destroys Edison's quadruples telegraph patent and also his three microphone patents, leaving the Bell company, after January next, to stand wholly on the Bell patent.

John C. Johnston did not fully appreciate the possibilities of a mining claim located by himself and others in the Roaring Fork Mining District in 1880, and diligently prosecute proceedings to determine his right of title thereto. The Supreme Court today decided that he could not establish his claim to a quarter interest in it, estimated to be worth \$100,000. The case comes to the Supreme Court of the United States on appeal from the Circuit Court for Colorado, wherein Johnson was defendant. Johnson's story was that in 1880 he conveyed a quarter interest in the claim to certain parties in trust, the condition being that they should defend his title against adverse claimants. He paid no further attention to the matter until 1885, he said, when he learned that a patent had been issued for the claim, and his grantees had conveyed to the Standard Mining Company. In 1887 he brought suit to recover his one-fourth interest, but the court below dismissed the bill for lack, which judgment the Supreme Court affirmed. Mr. Justice Brown, in his opinion, said: "Where property has been developed by the courage and energy and at the expense of the defendants, courts will look with disfavor upon the claims of those who have lain idle while awaiting the results of this development, and will require not only clear proof of fraud, but prompt assertion of plaintiff's rights."

One of the cases growing out of the practice by claimants in the West of enclosing large areas of public land by barbed wire fences, for the pasture of their stock, was before the Supreme Court to-day and from the Supreme Court of Arizona. The United States was represented in its effort to secure a removal of the fence. The United States and Colin Cameron had included 800 acres of public land in Arizona without color of title thereto, and asked an order for its removal. Mr. Justice Brown duly issued the order, the court reversing the judgment of the Supreme Court of the Territory. The court, upon the ground that Cameron's claim extended over a Mexican grant of four squares leagues of land, which by some unknown means had changed into "four leagues square," in the survey, remanded the case to Congress for settlement, constituted a colored territory which removed the lands in question from the public domain of the United States, and therefore exempted them from taxation.

The Supreme Court today decided its opinion that the United States could not condemn property of private corporations without considering in the proceedings the varying capacities thereof. The opinion was rendered by Justice Brewer in the case of the Appeal of the Mountain Park Company from the judgment of the Circuit Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania in condemnation proceedings instituted by the United States. Justice Brewer had been of counsel in the court below, and Justice Jackson, now having a member of the court when the case was under consideration, took part in the decision.

The following business was also done:

No. 14.—*Arraigned, ex parte.*—In the matter of the American Construction Company, petitioner, Petition for writ of mandamus denied, and rule to show cause why writ of certiorari should not issue ordered returnable on April 17. The Chief Justice was not present at the argument and took no part in the case.

No. 15.—*Arraigned, ex parte.*—In the matter of the American Construction Company, petitioner. Petition for writ of mandamus denied, and rule to show cause why writ of certiorari should not issue ordered returnable on April 17. The Chief Justice was not present at the argument and took no part in the case.

No. 16.—*Froderick Hohor, appellant, act. for the Hamburg-American Packet Company.* Dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

No. 17.—*De La Vergne Refrigerating Machine Company, appellant, act. John Fentonstone and others.* Motion for an order for taxation of cost denied.

No. 18.—*Nathaniel H. Wolfe, plaintiff in error, against the Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn.* Judgment reversed at cost.

No. 19.—*Richard P. Nixon, plaintiff in error, against the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.* Assigned for reargument on the second Monday of the next term.

The Chief Justice announced that as Friday next would be Good Friday, the Court would adjourn from Thursday until Monday next.

Adjudged until-to-morrow. The day call will be Nos. 159 and 160, 182, 183, 185, 187, 188, 189, 190 and 191.

CHARGES AGAINST W. C. T. U. MANAGEMENT.

Chicago, March 27.—Mrs. Matilda B. Carse, whose energy and devotion made the Woman's Christian Temperance Union possible, has replied to

the attacks on the financial management of the enterprise. After detailing the persistent attempts of interested persons to discredit the project from its inception, and answering the charges of malice, Mrs. Carse says: "The building does not yet belong to us in fee simple, nor did we in the least expect that it could so belong when we resolved five years ago that we must have our own building; but the stock is already controlled, and we have money which will enable us to call this splendid edifice all our own."

AN ADDRESS ON SHIP CANAL PLANS.

Pittsburgh, March 27.—The quarterly meetings of the Chamber of Commerce were begun this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Upon the adjournment of the regular board meeting Thomas P. Roberts was introduced and addressed the meeting on the subject of "Commercial Outlets of the Great Lakes, With Special Reference to the Proposed Lake Erie and Ohio Ship Canal." Mr. Roberts explained a number of maps and profiles which were exhibited, having reference to the Lake Erie and Canadian marine routes to Montreal, the Hudson from Lake Erie, etc. Plans were also shown explanatory of the several routes proposed to connect Lake Erie with the Ohio, and particular attention was paid to the Power-Couenant route, recommended by the Pennsylvania Canal Company. The speaker endeavored to show that with the completion of the canal the shipping and prospective business in iron ore, coal and grain received additional impetus, and the speaker endeavored to show that with the completion of the Canadian outlet and the Ohio Valley connected by a deep canal with the lakes, that an entire revolution will be brought about in the transportation of low-grade iron and coal, the leading commercial, mining and manufacturing districts of the Northern and Northwestern States.

THE PETROLEUM MARKET.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD AND RANGE OF PRICES.

No sensational developments were reported from the petroleum fields yesterday, but there was a good deal of speculation in crude oil. The sales of the Stock Exchange were 5,000 barrels, at 68 3/4 cents, against 67 1/4 cents on Saturday. At the Consolidated Exchange the sales aggregated 70,000 barrels.

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